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Chairman:	Mr. ESCOVAR-SALOM	(Venezuela)
later:	Ms. WONG (Vice-Chairman)	(New Zealand)
later:	Mr. ESCOVAR-SALOM (Chairman)	(Venezuela)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 147: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (continued) (A/51/22)

1. Mr. KOLODKIN (Russian Federation) said that his delegation fully supported the proposal to establish an international criminal court based on an international legal instrument and with jurisdiction over the most serious international crimes, namely, aggression, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and terrorist acts.

2. The court should have jurisdiction not over the crime of aggression itself but the crime of planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression, within the meaning given to the term by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/73 on the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. That did not mean that the crime of terrorism should be defined in the statute of the court but that the court should have jurisdiction to try crimes whose constituent elements were defined in international instruments of a universal character.

3. With regard to terrorism, it would be logical for the court to have jurisdiction over the most serious terrorist acts where such acts were referred to it by the Security Council pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. With respect to the statute of the court, the Russian delegation wished to emphasize three points: firstly, the court must be independent, but closely linked to the United Nations through the Security Council; the experience gained from ad hoc tribunals would be useful in that regard, but the objective should be to establish a court that was permanent, impartial and effective. Secondly, the work of the Preparatory Committee clearly showed the need to establish a special chamber to ensure effective judicial supervision of investigations. Finally, States should have the final say in drafting and adopting the court's rules of procedure and evidence.

5. On the question of complementarity, the Russian Federation was of the view that States should have the right to protest not only the jurisdiction of the court - and at all stages of the proceedings - but also the receivability of the complaint. Moreover, at least 60 to 65 States should ratify the constituent instruments of the court in order to ensure its universality.

6. The Russian delegation was pleased with the quality of the Preparatory Committee's work but believed that the time had come to draft the text of the convention establishing the court. In order for the organization of work to be successful, it was necessary to ensure that, inter alia, the number and duration of sessions and the methods of work were fixed and that the necessary translation services were available. It was therefore of the utmost importance for the General Assembly to take fully into account, in the resolution which it would adopt on the subject, the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee set forth in paragraph 368 of its report to enable the Preparatory Committee to come up with sufficiently developed documents at the diplomatic conference.

7. In conclusion, the establishment of an international criminal court would mark an historic step forward for the international community and the Russian Federation was willing to contribute to that effort.

8. Ms. Wong (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

9. Mr.ENAYAT (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the international criminal court would function effectively only if it were an independent body free of all political pressure. It was therefore necessary to carefully re-examine those provisions of its draft statute which empowered the Security Council to invoke the jurisdiction of the court.

10. Referring to article 22 of the draft statute elaborated by the International Law Commission (ILC), he reiterated his country's position on the principle of the court's inherent jurisdiction, which it considered to be contrary to the principle of complementarity. The acceptance of the court's jurisdiction in each case by the States most directly concerned, namely, the State of which the accused was a national and the State in whose territory the crime had been committed, was essential.

11. In conclusion, he called upon States to participate actively in finding solutions to issues which were still unresolved, including issues of a technical nature, such as the general principles of criminal law, the rules for protecting the rights of the accused and the rules of procedure and evidence.

12. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) said that his country was in favour of the establishment of an independent and impartial court on the basis of a multilateral treaty. Judges should be elected through the General Assembly in the same way as the judges of the International Court of Justice and funding for the court should be provided from the Organization's regular budget. A headquarters agreement must also be concluded with the country in which the court was to be located and all judges should be granted the privileges and immunities necessary for the discharge of their responsibilities.

13. His delegation was in agreement with the principle of complementarity, provided that the court itself ruled on the question of its jurisdiction. Moreover, the power to invoke the court's jurisdiction should reside with States Members, the Security Council and the prosecutor, without the impartiality and independence of the court being called into question. Finally, the Security Council should be able to refer to the court those crimes that were within its competence, without prejudice to the freedom of States to lodge complaints when crimes against international peace and security were committed.

14. The court's jurisdiction must be limited to the most serious crimes, which its statute must define on the basis of other international treaties and the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind. The statute should also guarantee the fundamental rights of the accused, in accordance with the principles of nullum crimen sine lege and in dubio pro reo.

15. In conclusion, his country supported the idea of holding a diplomatic conference in 1998 and welcomed the proposal by Italy for the convening of such a conference.

16. Mr. OBEID (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed the hope that the Committee's work would soon result in the establishment of an international criminal court which could put an end to the serious crimes being committed against humanity and thereby permit the advent of peace, security and stability in the Middle East and the world. The Syrian Arab Republic, which had always strictly adhered to the principles of general international law and which was firmly committed to the development of international law and to the establishment of new international legal institutions, supported the establishment of a permanent court as envisaged by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. Such a court should be a purely judicial institution, enjoy complete independence, be insulated from pressures and struggles for influence, be linked to the United Nations through clearly defined ties and not be subject to any pressure or interference from the Security Council. Indeed, far from being an organ of the Council, the court should be an international judicial institution emanating from the United Nations and, as such, should enjoy the same prerogatives as the other organs and specialized institutions of the system. Moreover, for the link with the United Nations to be close, it must also guarantee its universality and authority, not compromise under any circumstances its independence, and never imperil its existence. Such a link could be established through a special agreement which could be elaborated at the same time as the statute (as an annex) or concluded at an earlier stage between the two institutions, subject to the consent of all States Members.

17. He recalled that the region of the Middle East continued to be prey to injustice, aggression, and occupation, that the Security Council had adopted numerous resolutions to compel the occupier to withdraw but that all those efforts had unfortunately been in vain. Indeed, despite the numerous crimes committed by Israel, crimes which were a serious violation of human rights and which were repugnant to the conscience of all mankind, the Security Council had still not succeeded in obliging the Government of Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian Arab lands, from South Lebanon and from the Syrian Golan. Since the future court's main mission was to ensure respect for human rights, it was important to examine as quickly as possible the situation of the populations which not only lived in daily terror and oppression but were also the victims of unspeakable crimes - massacres, expulsions, dynamiting of homes, forced exodus, banishment, expropriations and torture. It was unacceptable that, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, a State and its army could commit such crimes with all impunity. That was the real purpose of the Committee's work and it was precisely to put an end to those monstrous practices and to punish their perpetrators that the court had been established.

18. As many delegations had stressed, the Syrian delegation considered that a very high priority should be attached to crimes of aggression and occupation. It also believed, like certain other delegations, that the crime of aggression should be covered in the statute of the court, since aggression was the root cause of most of the suffering and human rights violations of which populations were victims.

19. Referring to the role of the Security Council, he said that the Council's authority would have to be circumvented in order to ensure that some members would not use their veto power to prevent the perpetrators of the above-

mentioned crimes from being brought to justice and being sentenced, and to ensure that the Council's action would not thwart the exercise of the court's authority.

20. On previous occasions, his delegation had declared its support for a precise definition of the crimes considered threats to the security of mankind in order to give impetus to codification efforts in that area and in accordance with the principle of legality (nullem crimen sine lege, nulla poena sine lege). That was why it was necessary to define the applicable penalties. Moreover, the general principle of non-retroactivity of criminal law could be bypassed by explicit legislation, to come into force retroactively, concerning crimes that were considered extremely serious crimes against humanity.

21. Furthermore, the court's decisions should be binding so that all States Members of the United Nations would have to conform to them. Their implementation should not depend on the number of States that had signed or ratified the court's statute or were parties to it. Indeed, by giving States the option of acceding to its statute, the court would give them the opportunity to elude its authority, in other words, to prevent justice from being done. That point was worth stressing because by linking the court's jurisdiction to the consent of the State or States in whose territory a crime was committed, there was a danger of paralysing the court's action, especially if the crime had been committed in several States, or if a State invoked the fact that one of the constituent elements of the crime had been committed in its territory to challenge the court's jurisdiction. Once crimes fell within the court's jurisdiction and the States so agreed, they surrendered their individual jurisdiction. It therefore became pointless to link the court's jurisdiction to the consent of the State whose national had allegedly committed the crime. The same held true for regional jurisdiction. By becoming parties to the court's statute, the States accepted ipso facto its jurisdiction over all the crimes described in such statute.

22. His delegation was of the view that in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the court, trials in absentia, which were also provided for by national criminal law, should be authorized. That would enable proceedings to continue in cases where a State failed to notify the accused, or where the accused either refused to appear in court or was prevented from doing so by others intent on hindering the court's proceedings. Provision should be made for the non-applicability of statutory limitations to crimes and for trials in absentia, provided that the rights of the accused were fully guaranteed and that the rules of procedure were fully respected, so that prosecution witnesses would not give evidence to no avail, and also provided that precautions were taken to protect the integrity of evidence.

23. His delegation was grateful to the Government of Italy for offering to host the conference of plenipotentiaries to adopt a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court.

24. Mr. PACE (Malta), reiterating the need to finalize the Preparatory Committee's work, said that the sooner the requisite number of States ratified the treaty, the sooner the international criminal court would be established. Malta supported the convening of an international conference of

plenipotentiaries and welcomed the offer made by the Government of Italy. There was an urgent need to establish such a court since national courts had been ineffective thus far and the ad hoc Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda had demonstrated that such organs could not be a substitute for a permanent international judicial mechanism. The international community must hold those who committed grave violations of international humanitarian law accountable, not by the imposition of sanctions on the States concerned, since innocent civilians might suffer much more than the offending individuals, but by focusing on the individuals responsible for such violations.

25. In his delegation's view, the judges nominated to the court should be nationals of States parties. The court's universality would depend on the participation of Member States on which accession to the convention would confer rights and obligations which must be equitably distributed. While financial considerations should be kept in mind when the number of judges was determined, it should also be borne in mind that the main aim was the efficient functioning of the court. Malta endorsed the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, but was against a strict quota system. In that regard, the language in the draft referring to women judges should be improved in order to avoid any possibility of misinterpretation concerning the qualifications of such judges. His delegation unequivocally supported the renewal of the Preparatory Committee's mandate.

26. Ms. RONEN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said her delegation was surprised and disappointed that the debates on the establishment of an international criminal court had been used for political ends by the Syrian delegation. The aim was precisely to establish a body free from any political influence.

27. Mr. OBEID (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Preparatory Committee's discussions were not restricted to technical issues. It also considered crimes against humanity. Politics and technical issues were intertwined, and it was common knowledge that Israel continued to commit crimes.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 147.

AGENDA ITEM 151: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued) (A/51/336)

29. Mr. DEV (India) said that his country attached considerable importance to measures to eliminate international terrorism. When it had been the principal victim of acts of terrorism, India had warned the international community that democracies and multicultural societies were particularly vulnerable to that scourge.

30. The Group of Seven Summit held in Lyon in 1996, the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit of March 1996 and the ninth meeting of heads of State and Governments of the Rio Group had all condemned terrorism in all its forms and reiterated their determination to make united efforts to combat that threat by all available legal means. However, despite that growing international consensus on the need

to eliminate terrorism, some States and groups continued to sponsor, finance and arm terrorists, and international terrorist activities continued unabated.

31. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/51/336). A more international approach should be adopted in the fight against terrorism in addition to the sectoral efforts that had been made to date. India favoured the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework for the prevention, repression and elimination of international terrorism in all its aspects. The United Nations must be the unique forum for promoting counter-terrorist activities and international cooperation in combating terrorism.

32. In the absence of a comprehensive international convention, the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism was the only instrument to which all States, without exception, should adhere. It unequivocally condemned terrorism and stipulated that all States must recognize that acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable whatever the circumstances and the motivations. States were also obligated, under the Declaration, to ensure that their territories were not used for terrorist installations or training camps or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts against other States or their citizens.

33. The industrialized countries remained convinced that it was possible to limit their fight against that scourge to their own territories and to the Middle East or other areas that they were interested in. It must be recognized, however, that terrorist bombings, drugs and arms trafficking, smuggling of nuclear material, money laundering and the use of information technology for terrorist purposes were all inextricably linked. The struggle against international terrorism on a selective geographical basis could not be a substitute for a comprehensive international and unified effort, and had little hope of lasting success.

34. India had consistently advocated the adoption of an international convention to combat terrorism. Nevertheless, it welcomed sectoral measures that addressed specific aspects of international terrorism, since it viewed such measures as a prelude to an international convention which would be binding on all States and would facilitate cooperation in that field. His delegation had prepared, for the consideration of all members of the Committee, a draft international convention on the suppression of terrorism.

35. It would be regrettable if the publication of a compendium of national laws and regulations on terrorism were affected by the prevailing financial crisis of the United Nations. That crisis must not become an obstacle in the war against international terrorism. Additional resources must be allocated or the necessary adjustment must be made within the regular budget resources for that purpose, by according overriding priority to that question. The item must be put on the Committee's agenda every year and the discussions thereon should be aided by updated reports of the Secretary-General on measures taken by the United Nations, other international forums, individual Member States or groups of Member States to eliminate international terrorist activities.

36. Ms. BOUM (Cameroon) said that the international community was now unanimous in condemning terrorism. At the same time, it had to be recognized that terrorist activities had intensified in recent years. Cameroon condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever committed, particularly in view of the destabilizing consequences which terrorist acts could have on the already fragile structures of some countries.

37. Cameroon was in favour of both the sectoral option and the global option. It had ratified most of the legal instruments suppressing certain aspects of terrorism and intended to continue that process. It also supported the elaboration of new instruments relating to other forms of terrorism, particularly the initiatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation for the establishment, at the current session, of an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Her delegation believed, however, that the ad hoc committee's mandate should extend also to the elaboration of instruments relating to other aspects of international terrorism which were not covered in the existing instruments.

38. Cameroon supported the movement which was currently emerging in favour of the establishment of a general framework to combat terrorism, as demonstrated by the statements made at the Sharm El-Sheikh summit meeting and the meeting of the Group of Seven at Lyon, but felt that the United Nations remained the ideal forum to universalize consideration of the issue. In that spirit, the adoption in 1994 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism was an important step.

39. It was essential for the perpetrators of terrorist attacks to receive the punishment they deserved, regardless of the place of their arrest. The granting of asylum or of refugee status did not in any way mean impunity for the perpetrator of a terrorist act. It was for that reason that Cameroon supported the United Kingdom initiative for the adoption of a new declaration to supplement the 1994 Declaration on the subject.

40. Lastly, she said that it would not be possible to eradicate terrorism without tackling its underlying social, economic and political causes; States must undertake that task, individually and collectively.

41. Mr. NAYAN (Malaysia) said that any definition of international terrorism must take into account the differences of opinion as to the constituent elements of terrorism and terrorist acts. In that connection, he recalled that paragraph 1 of the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations had reaffirmed the right of self-determination of all peoples, taking into account the particular situation of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and recognized the right of peoples to take legitimate action in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to realize their inalienable right of self-determination.

42. Malaysia reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, methods and manifestations. Terrorism and terrorist acts could not be

justified; States, individually and collectively, must spare no effort and must mobilize their resources to combat terrorism by all legal means available.

43. Malaysia had ratified the 1963 Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, and the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, and had enacted domestic legislation to give effect to those three conventions.

44. His Government also applauded the efforts undertaken at the regional level by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and was gratified that the International Civil Aviation Organization had chosen Malaysia as the site of a regional workshop to develop national aviation security.

45. The question of the granting of refugee status must be reviewed in the context of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, having regard for the abuses found to have been committed by persons who were directly or indirectly connected with international terrorist movements. As to the implementation of measures to eliminate international terrorism, it was imperative for such measures to respect fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, in accordance with the principles governing international relations and international law.

46. Mr. RAMASHKA (Belarus) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/336) as well as the activities carried out by the Secretariat with a view to the publication of a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The political will and determination of States were essential factors in combating international terrorism; Belarus was pleased that cooperation in that sphere was shifting more towards practical action, as demonstrated by the documents adopted by regional organizations and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In that respect, the strengthening of regional cooperation had to be one of the priorities of the United Nations.

47. The international community must develop appropriate legal machinery so as not to be outpaced by international terrorists, who used advanced means of transportation and communication to carry out their activities. It was therefore particularly important to intensify efforts in the area of the exchange of information, strengthen training activities, and provide technical and consultative assistance to the States in need of it. In that context, Belarus noted with satisfaction the agreements reached by the Group of Seven and the Russian Federation at Paris and the initiatives for their implementation which had been presented to the Committee; his delegation generally supported the draft Declaration to bar the granting of asylum to terrorists, submitted by the United Kingdom.

48. His delegation also supported the proposals submitted by the United States of America and the Russian Federation concerning the elaboration of an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It

hoped that the General Assembly would decide at the current session to establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate those instruments.

49. In view of the global and multifaceted character of terrorism, multi-purpose measures must be taken and appropriate structures created at the global, regional and national levels. The fight against terrorism must be one of the priorities of organizations, both international and regional; Belarus appreciated the efforts taken by UNESCO to mobilize public opinion in condemning terrorism. It was obvious that those activities needed to be coordinated and that the Committee must remain the main forum for the consideration of all those issues.

50. International terrorist acts must be defined, particularly so as to single out those which had the objective of undermining international relations and were covered by the existing anti-terrorist conventions. It was therefore a matter of priority to urge all States to accede to those international legal instruments.

51. At the national level, Belarus attached great importance to the adoption of institutional and preventive measures to suppress crimes closely linked to terrorism such as the arms trade and drug trafficking, money laundering, and the smuggling of nuclear and other types of potentially lethal materials.

52. His delegation noted that in the bilateral treaties to which Belarus had acceded, there were clauses dealing with the mutual obligations of States in combating terrorism. In that regard, Belarus proposed that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should consider the possibility of drafting a standard model of bilateral cooperation in preventing and suppressing terrorist acts.

53. The strengthening of cooperation among States was gaining increasing importance. Belarus, which had just joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), was actively involved in all activities in the framework of the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, which it unreservedly condemned.

54. Mr. Al Hosani (United Arab Emirates) took the floor.

55. Owing to inaudible interpretation, the speaker was interrupted.

56. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan), speaking on a point of order, said that that was not the first time that such an incident had occurred in the United Nations in the General Assembly or one of its Main Committees. The Committee should take note of it and demand an explanation as to the nature of the technical problem. Arabic was an official language of the Organization and it should be possible to provide the necessary services when a speaker spoke in Arabic, as in the other languages. That incident involved a lack of courtesy towards the speaker and an infringement upon the status of an official language, Arabic.

57. The CHAIRMAN requested the Secretary of the Committee to take note of the statement by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan and to report subsequently

on the matter to the Committee. She invited the representative of the United Arab Emirates to continue his statement.

58. Mr. AL HOSANI (United Arab Emirates) said that, although terrorism was not a new phenomenon, it was assuming forms that were increasingly diverse and sophisticated. General Assembly resolution 42/159 had represented a first step towards the establishment of effective cooperation in combating terrorism, in accordance with international law and the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

59. His country condemned all terrorist acts, regardless of who the perpetrators were or where they were committed, because they were criminal acts which destroyed innocent human lives and infringed the security of States. At the national level, the United Arab Emirates had taken draconian measures, including imposition of the death penalty, to combat such acts. At the international level, his country had ratified several international conventions on terrorism, which, pursuant to federal decrees, had become an integral part of the national legislation, including the 1963 Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 22 February 1988, and the 1991 Montreal Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

60. A distinction should be made between acts of terrorism perpetrated by individuals, groups or States to serve their own interests and the legitimate struggle of national liberation movements, as had been reaffirmed in the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, in General Assembly resolution 50/6. He also stressed that terrorism should not be confused with Islam. Islam was a religion, all of whose aspects aimed at guaranteeing the protection of basic human rights and which provided very severe penalties for all acts of terrorism against persons or property.

61. He called upon the international community to cooperate effectively in ensuring respect for international law in order to take all necessary measures for the prevention of terrorist activities. It was also essential to define terrorist acts, determine the reasons for them, and deal with aspects of the phenomenon which were not yet the subject of conventions, such as terrorist bomb attacks and acts of nuclear terrorism, as well as trafficking in weapons and narcotic drugs for terrorist purposes.

62. Ms. BAYKAL (Turkey) said that the linkage sometimes established between political and socio-economic conditions in a country and acts of terror was morally wrong because nothing could justify terrorism, which violated the most fundamental human right, the right to life.

63. Categorically condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Turkey welcomed the proposals by the United Kingdom and France. The international community should take steps to ensure that terrorists did not abuse the right of asylum. While supporting the proposals made by the United

States of America and the Russian Federation, her country considered that it would be better to draw up a comprehensive legal instrument, in other words, a general convention to be adopted by the General Assembly. Accordingly, she proposed that the mandate of the ad hoc committee to elaborate the draft conventions on terrorist bombings and nuclear terrorism, should be expanded to include the drafting of such a convention.

64. There were other ways to deal with terrorist acts, which were crimes against the peace and security of mankind. Serious acts of international terrorism should be included in the jurisdiction of the future international criminal court. The reasoning put forward by those who were against that, namely that it would lessen the resolve of States to prosecute terrorists at the national level and would politicize the functions of the court, were misleading because such an argument could be used to be included in the jurisdiction of the court.

65. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that the eleventh summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had expressed great concern at acts of terrorism. Furthermore, the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/51/336) underscored the need to enhance efforts to combat such acts. There was a gap between the efforts being made and the results achieved.

66. The international community was increasingly aware of the obligations of States under international law to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of civil strife or terrorist acts in other States or tolerating activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts. There was also a greater awareness of the need to harmonize domestic legislation with international conventions. States were cooperating more closely by exchanging information, concluding special treaties and incorporating into bilateral treaties special clauses relating, in particular, to the extradition or prosecution of international terrorists.

67. Pakistan had wholeheartedly joined the international community's fight against terrorism. As a victim of terrorist acts, it was taking measures to prevent acts of terrorism in its own territory. His country strongly condemned terrorist activities in all their forms and manifestations, whether perpetrated by individual groups or by States and irrespective of the motives involved.

68. Pakistan had vigorously supported anti-terrorist measures at the United Nations, in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It had cooperated with international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). With regard to hijacking, Pakistan was a party to the 1963 Tokyo Convention, the 1970 Hague Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention. It was also party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, as well as the Regional Convention on Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Pakistan was continuing to fulfil its obligations under those conventions by taking internal security measures and prosecuting hijackers.

69. In spite of the efforts made at the international and national levels, the continuation of the phenomenon of terrorism indicated that the international community had not been able to take all necessary steps to prevent it. The Committee therefore had an arduous task ahead, which included an in-depth analysis of all forms and manifestations of terrorism and a thorough study of its underlying causes. The complexities inherent in the phenomenon of terrorism must be fully understood in order to take effective measures to combat it.

70. Since perceptions of the phenomenon continued to diverge, the international community had thus far been unable to agree on an acceptable definition of terrorism. A consensus, nevertheless, seemed to have emerged on the effects of terrorism. All States agreed that acts of terrorism endangered human lives and jeopardized fundamental freedoms. A large majority also believed that States, unilaterally as well as in cooperation with other States and United Nations bodies, should contribute to the progressive elimination of the underlying causes of terrorism.

71. The problem could only be dealt with by addressing its root causes. However, the international community had thus far ignored that aspect of the situation. He drew attention in that regard to General Assembly resolution 40/61, whose message was still valid and would remain so for as long as the international community did not address the underlying causes of terrorism and the violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights that might give rise to international terrorism. The General Assembly had also provided a comprehensive framework for addressing the issue of terrorism in its resolution 46/51, which should continue to guide the work of the Sixth Committee. Any attempt to ignore those guiding principles would create further problems for all. It was necessary to reiterate those principles incessantly. In that context, he reaffirmed that Pakistan's support for counter-terrorism measures would not affect its total commitment to the right of peoples to self-determination and to liberation struggles against alien and colonial domination or foreign occupation. Recognition of that universal principle would strengthen the international community's capacity to combat terrorism. Attention must be paid to all situations, including colonialism, racism, alien domination, foreign occupation and the infringement or denial of the right of self-determination, with a view to the application of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, if necessary under Chapter VII. There was also a need to address the issues of economic deprivation and political oppression as well as the exploitation of people in various parts of the world, which were often the root cause of terrorism. The distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination was upheld by a large majority of the members of the United Nations and had to be strengthened. It was a fundamental principle of the United Nations whose sanctity must be preserved in totality.

72. It was also necessary to address the issue of State terrorism, one of the most ignoble forms of terrorism. Brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation and the use of State power to oppress and commit violence against innocent civilians, their homes, places of worship and honour were immediate causes of widespread discontent and protest which could be manipulated by certain groups to perpetrate terrorist acts. The objective of those groups was to denigrate the liberation struggle waged by people under foreign occupation in order to freely determine their destiny. The aforementioned distinction was all

the more necessary because liberation struggles in essence did not involve terrorist acts.

73. Moreover, the fight against terrorism should not transgress the principles of non-interference and non-intervention or the non-use of force or threat of force in international relations.

74. Pakistan condemned all terrorist acts, including the taking of hostages. It shared the concerns expressed by some delegations for the safety of persons taken hostage in Jammu and Kashmir, and demanded their immediate and unconditional release. It strongly condemned the murder of a Norwegian hostage.

75. Pakistan would continue to fight against international terrorism while upholding its own principles. There should be no compromise on those principles, and it was in that framework that Pakistan would pursue its struggle against all forms and manifestations of international terrorism, and that it would continue to work towards the elimination of its underlying causes.

76. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) expressed concern that, despite many measures taken against international terrorism, terrorist activities had increased in recent years. To be more effective, the struggle against terrorism should be engaged on three fronts: adoption of an international legal regime, cooperation among all States, and understanding of the socio-political aspects of the problem.

77. While recognizing the need to work towards the conclusion of a comprehensive international convention, his delegation saw a need to find the gaps in existing instruments and stop them by adopting new instruments or by extending the scope of existing ones. The proposals submitted in that regard by the United States of America and the Russian Federation merited serious consideration.

78. One of the greatest obstacles to cooperation among States was the divergence in their perception of the phenomenon. The concept of terrorism was intermingled with the sensitive topics of individual rights, self-determination, State terrorism and State-aided terrorism. Another problem was posed by the technological and financial aspects of terrorism, as few developing countries possessed the technology they needed to fight terrorism effectively. It would thus be useful, the Secretary-General proposed in his report, to provide training in methods of combating the criminal activity associated with international terrorism.

79. Last, the socio-political aspects of the problem had to be addressed. The States against whom political terrorism was directed had a responsibility to find a peaceful solution to the problem, in the interest of the entire population. They should find and, if possible, resolve the root causes of the disaffection that led to terrorism and make every effort to create an environment of peace and moderation in which terrorism had no place. Endorsing the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's report, Bangladesh encouraged UNESCO to conduct research on the socio-political aspect of terrorism.

80. Ms. CUETO MILIÁN (Cuba) called for international cooperation not only to combat acts of terrorism but also to eliminate their root causes. To that end, Member States must reach agreement, in the framework of an international conference, on criteria for defining the phenomenon in all its manifestations.

81. It would be completely unacceptable for a State or group of States to insist on pointing the finger of blame at other nations and to launch illegal crusades against them, for the purpose of protecting real terrorists. Cuba, which had not only suffered numerous assassination attempts against its leaders, sabotage operations, acts of chemical and biological warfare, seizures of aircraft and armed infiltrations, but continued to the present day to experience one of the most brutal forms of economic terrorism, hoped that the international community would take the necessary steps to develop a text that dealt with terrorism in all its aspects and manifestations. Her delegation was ready to consider any initiative on the topic with objectivity and flexibility.

82. Mr. AMIRBEKOV (Azerbaijan) said that the international community must not give in to States which resorted to terrorism in order to achieve political objectives. That practice, which had unfortunately become common in recent years, posed a serious threat to international peace and stability.

83. For more than eight years, Azerbaijan had been the target of terrorist activities carried out by its neighbour, Armenia, which was occupying one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan. Armenian aggression had caused more than 2,000 deaths and had displaced almost 1 million Azerbaijanis. His delegation would shortly provide all delegations with more detailed information on terrorist activities carried out by Armenia.

84. Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and also the new initiatives taken in that regard, notably the draft declaration submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom. It also fully supported the letter and spirit of the documents adopted at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit of 13 March 1996 and at the Paris Ministerial Conference on Terrorism of 30 July 1996. Only concerted action by the entire international community would lead to the elimination of the scourge of terrorism.

85. Ms. EUGÈNE (Haiti) said that the struggle against terrorism required the cooperation of all. Such cooperation could take the form of either the exchange of information or the pursuit of terrorists and their extradition if necessary. The international community must bring all means to bear to stamp out that evil, which threatened the stability of States, and to combat relentlessly not only the criminals themselves, but also those who encouraged their criminal activities in any way.

86. As criminals were using increasingly sophisticated techniques, the struggle against terrorism required technical knowledge and specialized equipment which were not always available to developing countries. Those countries would thus benefit from the training courses on counter-terrorism offered by the Organization.

87. Serious disarmament programmes should also be set up for States that required them, as the possession of weapons by those well-versed in criminal activities constituted a real danger.

88. Her delegation supported the idea of drafting an international convention that would define terrorism and deal with topics not covered under existing instruments. It was nevertheless convinced that combating terrorism required above all the firm political will of each State as well as the objective determination of the international community.

89. Mr. Escovar-Salom (Chairman) resumed the Chair.

90. Mr. CASTELLON (Nicaragua) said that his Government attached paramount importance to international instruments for combating terrorism and measures to suppress terrorist acts and related activities, such as drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and arms trafficking. His country had, therefore, acceded to most of the multilateral conventions in that field. At the regional level, Nicaragua had concluded, with the other countries of Central America, a framework treaty on democratic security, in which the parties committed themselves to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat terrorism.

91. There was a need to adopt a more global strategy in order to identify aspects of the problem that were not dealt with in existing instruments and to eliminate gaps by adopting further international treaties in that area. For example, the right of asylum should not be abused for the benefit of terrorists because they were criminals and should be prosecuted and punished as such.

92. At the domestic level, Nicaragua was continuing to organize education campaigns and promote a climate favouring peace and democracy by establishing the necessary institutions to enable civil society to participate more in the conduct of public affairs and by prosecuting terrorists and their accomplices.

93. Mr. ODOI-ANIM (Ghana) said that his delegation joined others in unreservedly condemning all acts of terrorism and said that much had to be done in terms of cooperation, education, information and mobilization of resources in ongoing efforts to stamp out international terrorism. There was also a need to coordinate efforts among the various United Nations agencies working to eliminate terrorism. His delegation therefore fully endorsed paragraph 10 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60. The measures which the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to take in that paragraph should make it possible to intensify multilateral efforts aimed at stamping out international terrorism.

94. Section II of the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/336), which provided an analytical review of existing international legal instruments relating to international terrorism, reflected regional and multilateral efforts to establish a legal regime for combating terrorism. He noted with regret, however, that the status of participation in the legal instruments presented a picture of selective involvement: those aimed at combating terrorist acts related to aircraft and other aspects of civil aviation enjoyed greater

participation in terms of signatures and ratifications. For example, 156 States had ratified the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963), the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970) and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971). On the other hand, only 50 States had signed the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, and, of those, only 18 had ratified it. Admittedly, domestic legislative procedures determined the time-frame for individual States' accession to or participation in different treaty regimes. However, the status of participation in international conventions pertaining to international terrorism, as depicted in section II of the report under consideration, appeared to reflect differences in the degree of importance that States attached to the various Conventions. Terrorism must be considered evil in whatever form it was perpetrated. No act of terrorism was more or less reprehensible than another. Ghana therefore urged all States to take urgent measures to sign or ratify all the international instruments relating to international terrorism.

95. As a developing country, Ghana attached great importance to the acquisition of knowledge about the various techniques used in combating terrorism. Most developing countries lacked the capacity to develop or acquire on their own the necessary technical devices used to prevent terrorist acts. That was of grave concern to his delegation in view of the fact that such acts affected not only developed countries but also developing ones. For example, the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection had established an international technical commission on explosives in order to evaluate technical developments relating to the manufacture, marking and detection of explosives. The commission was, without doubt, important and there must be serious efforts to make information on its activities as well as the technical means used to achieve its objectives available to developing countries. Increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation was necessary in such specific areas. It should be undertaken in combination with regular training of security personnel from developing countries in advanced counter-terrorism techniques. In that connection, he commended all the United Nations agencies involved in the organization of workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism. His delegation was particularly pleased with the increase in the number of delegates from developing countries who had attended the aviation security seminars held under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in March and June 1996. ICAO should be commended for its role in establishing aviation-security training facilities. Appreciation should also be expressed to Belgium, Germany and the United States of America for the funds that they had provided for establishing and operating a regional training centre in Ecuador and their plans to set up similar facilities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

96. As paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism clearly indicated, nothing justified terrorism since violence only begot violence. Nevertheless, certain realities could not be ignored, particularly economic exploitation, political intolerance, social injustice and the use of different standards to deal with the same problems. Those phenomena often provided excuses for terrorists; mitigating or eliminating them could remove some of the factors that motivated terrorists.

97. Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea) said that his country, having been the victim of flagrant acts of international terrorism, strongly condemned all forms of terrorism, regardless of their causes or objectives. With the growing number of internal conflicts, the mounting wave of international terrorism posed a grave and contagious threat to the stability of the post-cold war order. There should be no tolerance at all for terrorists. One of the surest ways to contain and eliminate terrorism was to develop a worldwide legal system that held terrorists completely accountable for their acts. A clear message must be sent to the world that there was no reward for terrorism and that those who engaged in terrorist acts would pay the price for their folly.

98. In that connection, the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism had issued a timely call to the international community to renew its political resolve to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. The Republic of Korea reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the letter and spirit of the Declaration and was willing to join international efforts to curb international terrorism.

99. His country continued to allocate substantial human and material resources for the eradication of terrorism domestically. It had learned from its own painful experience, however, that that nefarious plague could not be contained through domestic policies and actions alone. The rapid development of mass transport and communications had brought the world's regions closer than ever before, allowing terrorists even greater room for manoeuvre. At the same time, technological advances had given them a far broader arsenal of weapons with which to carry out their odious acts. The international community, therefore, should expand its cooperation to detect and suppress acts of terrorism before they occurred. The ultimate eradication of global terrorism would require the determined political will and concerted efforts of the entire international community. It was crucially important to continue to improve existing international legal norms on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and significantly expand their scope.

100. In its efforts to reinforce the struggle against terrorism, the Republic of Korea had already become a party to seven of the 10 international conventions and protocols referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and was considering accession to the remaining three in the very near future. For that reason, his delegation was concerned at the sizeable number of Member States that had not yet ratified those conventions and protocols and strongly urged them to do so as soon as possible. The international community could not stand idly by, faced with a serious problem that affected all parts of the world.

101. The proposal by the United Kingdom to complement the 1994 Declaration came at a very critical juncture and the Republic of Korea supported its finalization with the suggestions that it had proposed earlier. By adopting that proposal, the international community would send a clear message to terrorists that it would not tolerate their crimes and would not rest until all terrorism was eliminated. The safety and welfare of mankind depended on the success of that endeavour. His country, for its part, reiterated its firm commitment to efforts both within the United Nations and elsewhere to end international terrorism once and for all.

102. Mr. NEGA (Ethiopia) recalled that Ethiopia had been a victim of terrorist acts, one of which had been the attempted assassination of the President of Egypt in Addis Ababa on 26 June 1995. That terrorist act had been carried out by members of a fundamentalist group organized in a foreign country. The attempt had failed, thanks to the diligence and determination of the Ethiopian security forces, but despite their prompt and effective intervention, three of the terrorists had thus far managed to escape justice by taking shelter in a neighbouring country. Ethiopia's requests for their extradition, and repeated demands by the Organization of African Unity and the Security Council of the United Nations had gone unheeded to date.

103. Resorting to terrorism to achieve certain political, ideological or other objectives could not be justified and should not be tolerated. Such acts became even more intolerable when committed with the direct or indirect knowledge, support or assistance of States. Needless to say, any such behaviour on the part of a State constituted a grave violation of international law and posed a serious threat to international peace and security.

104. In recent years there had been a proliferation of multinational terrorist groups engaged in cross-border terrorist activities, operating from territories of States where there was no central Government or where the Government lacked effective control over its territory. The presence of such multinational terrorist groups, particularly in Africa, was a matter of serious concern to Ethiopia. In the previous year a group of multinational terrorists had carried out terrorist activities that had resulted in loss of life and destruction of property in Ethiopia. Those repeated terrorist acts had led the Ethiopian Government to undertake, in exercise of its right of self-defence, a limited but successful police action aimed at destroying the bases of the multinational terrorist group. The evidence captured as a result of that operation revealed that the terrorist elements involved had had a wider and extremely dangerous mission of creating havoc and spreading terror in the subregion of which Ethiopia was a part. Cross-border terrorism by multinational terrorist elements should be met with resolute action.

105. Combating terrorism required concerted action and cooperation among States at all levels. At the national level, States should take effective measures, enacting and enforcing laws aimed at preventing and punishing terrorist acts. Becoming parties to existing international instruments relating to terrorism and scrupulous compliance with the obligations arising from those and other instruments were indispensable.

106. However, while action at the national level was essential, the fight against terrorism could not succeed without closer cooperation and coordination among States at the bilateral, regional and international levels, especially in the following areas: mutual judicial assistance, particularly through the conclusion and implementation of cooperative counter-terrorist arrangements and extradition agreements; exchanges of information regarding activities and movements of terrorists, and monitoring of transfers of funds from terrorist activities; technical assistance, particularly counter-terrorism training and providing developing countries with modern technology for combating terrorism; accession to existing international instruments and adoption of a comprehensive international legal instrument dealing with all aspects of terrorism; and

establishment of a mechanism and a focal point for coordinating international cooperation in combating terrorism.

107. While recognizing the important contribution of existing international instruments to the fight against terrorism, his delegation believed that lacunae remained in international law relating to terrorism. Combating terrorism required a comprehensive approach, as terrorism was becoming a global phenomenon with increasingly complex dimensions and forms. For that reason, a selective sectoral approach was not appropriate. His delegation therefore fully concurred with the observation in the Secretary-General's report that a more global approach to counter-terrorism should be taken in addition to the sectoral efforts made thus far, with the aim of establishing a comprehensive legal framework concerning all aspects of terrorism. The importance of such a comprehensive approach, and in particular the need for a comprehensive international instrument on terrorism, had been endorsed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in its ministerial declaration adopted on 25 September 1996 in New York.

108. His delegation noted the proposals to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombing and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. While recognizing the importance of suppressing terrorist acts in those two spheres, in particular in the sphere of terrorist bombing, his delegation believed that such a selective sectoral approach fell short of addressing the lacunae in international law and of leading to effective measures to combat terrorism in all its dimensions. A global approach and the adoption of a comprehensive legal instrument would be preferable.

109. Initiatives and measures undertaken by States at the national, regional and multilateral levels clearly testified to the international community's determination to combat terrorism. His delegation welcomed all those measures, in particular the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism of the Group of Seven and the Russian Federation, held in Paris on 30 July 1996. Once again, the practical implementation of those and other initiatives required a comprehensive approach that took into account the various dimensions of terrorism as well as the experience and concerns of all States affected by that scourge. As international terrorism transcended international boundaries and posed a serious threat to international peace and security, counter-terrorist measures could not succeed without strong international cooperation and solidarity. Ethiopia, which in past years had demonstrated its resolve in combating terrorism, remained committed to participating actively in the efforts of the international community to prevent, combat and eliminate that scourge.

110. Mr. BELCAID (Morocco) reiterated Morocco's consistent position, which firmly and categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms and held that that perverse phenomenon was unjustifiable, regardless of the cause the terrorists claimed to be fighting for. Nevertheless, the illegal nature of terrorist acts did little to prevent them, and Morocco regretted that at the end of the twentieth century, which should have been a time of great hope, the scourge of terrorism continued to torment mankind and make a mockery of people's right to live in peace and tranquillity.

111. When a terrorist act was committed, it was done in defiance of all legal, moral and even civilizational norms. It was a violent act aimed at disrupting the constitutional order of States, resulting in most cases in a deterioration in their friendly relations. Moreover, it was an immoral act in that it victimized innocent people whose sole offence was to have been at the place where the terrorists had decided to strike. In the face of such gratuitous and unacceptable violence, the international community must redouble its efforts and take concerted action to make those States that had not already done so realize the absolute necessity of becoming party to the international legal instruments regarding international terrorism and of drawing on those instruments when formulating their domestic legislation in that sphere.

112. States should also establish a sound basis for cooperating at the bilateral, regional and international levels in the exchange of information and expertise and in the area of mutual judicial assistance. Everyone had a duty to promote the universality of the relevant conventions and their effective implementation by all States. In that regard, the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1994 had come to reflect the international community's firm commitment and its determination to carry on the struggle without respite. In the view of his delegation, respect for the principles enunciated in that Declaration would contribute significantly to the ultimate success of the common effort.

113. In that context, his delegation welcomed the commendable initiatives aimed at strengthening the rules in force and filling in any gaps. Aware of its international responsibilities, Morocco had participated at the highest level in the Sharm el-Sheikh summit meeting and had made a considerable contribution to the efforts of the Trivi Group. At the bilateral level, Morocco had concluded agreements on combating terrorism with a number of countries, including Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

114. The success of any joint action against terrorism depended on active solidarity among all the members of the international community, a solidarity which must be constantly strengthened and must be able to withstand all the divisive factors which could undermine it, such as the unacceptable confusion which tended to be made between terrorism and Islam. Needless to say, terrorism was a political problem, not a religious problem. Indeed Islam, as a religion of peace, tolerance and fellowship, could not condone blind violence which took the lives of innocent people. That position of principle had been clearly expressed at the summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held in Casablanca in 1994.

115. In support of the joint strategy to combat terrorism, it would be worth considering the underlying causes of the phenomenon such as poverty, injustice and oppression, hence the need for a global and integrated approach based on clearer concepts so that the efforts that were made would be successful.

116. Mr. CHAVES (Kyrgyz Republic) said that the international community was increasingly concerned about terrorist acts committed in various parts of the world. Although it had not been affected directly, the Kyrgyz Republic condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices, and all acts which were intended to produce a state of terror and anxiety in the general public. All

forms of terrorism must be eliminated, and all terrorist acts must be punished with the utmost severity.

117. The revolution in communications and travel had facilitated the movements of terrorists, and media coverage gave their actions an added impact on public opinion. It was therefore necessary to strengthen cooperation among Governments, particularly between the security authorities of States, so as to be able to apprehend terrorists and bring them to justice.

118. There were a number of international conventions referring to criminal offences against aviation, especially civil aviation. However, there were still many areas which needed to be covered by international agreements in order to ensure that terrorism was totally uprooted.

119. The Kyrgyz Republic supported the idea of establishing an ad hoc committee, open to all Member States, to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, but felt that the ad hoc committee's mandate should be broadened to include all other terrorist acts. The Kyrgyz Republic supported all measures for the elimination of international terrorism and was also prepared to participate actively in drawing up the necessary instruments to strengthen international cooperation and ensure the advent of a peaceful world.

120. Mr. AL-DOSARI (Bahrain) said that the world had been the scene of terrorist acts directed against the global order, the vital interests of peoples and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the human person. That wave of terrorism had had the effect of destabilizing States and disrupting international relations, not to mention hundreds of innocent victims and damage caused to public and private property. Bahrain therefore called on the international community to cooperate in finding the best means of combating terrorism, which nothing could justify. Moreover, as required by international law, certain States must avoid encouraging terrorist acts committed in other States, helping the perpetrators, or participating in such acts.

121. While supporting the firm steps taken by the international community, his delegation felt that it was necessary to draw up an international strategy to combat terrorism, call on States not to encourage the emergence of terrorist organizations on their soil, ensure that terrorists were arrested and judged, encourage the exchange of information among States, refuse to yield to the demands of terrorists, and organize an international conference on terrorism, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider all aspects of the phenomenon and determine ways of putting an end to it.

122. His delegation, which had considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/336), wished to reaffirm that the United Nations had an important role to play, as demonstrated by the international instruments drawn up by the Organization to which the State of Bahrain was a party. His delegation renewed its support for the measures which had been taken to eliminate terrorism and called on the international community to coordinate its efforts to that end.

123. Ms. WONG (New Zealand) reaffirmed New Zealand's determination to combat international terrorism in all forms, by whomsoever committed. New Zealand had long been participating actively in the elaboration of international

anti-terrorist measures. It had strongly supported the 1994 Declaration and the action undertaken since then. She had listened with great interest to the comments made by Ms. Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in the Third Committee on 31 October. The High Commissioner had said that it must be ensured that the measures to combat terrorism envisaged by the Sixth Committee did not encroach on the right of asylum, which must be accorded to persons who really needed to be protected. New Zealand felt that it should be expressly indicated, when new measures were envisaged, that such measures would be without prejudice to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1977 Protocol.

124. Mr. RONEN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was regrettable that some delegations had found it necessary to use a technical body like the Sixth Committee to pursue political objectives. His delegation categorically rejected the attempts made during the debate by some countries of the Middle East to distinguish between various types of terrorism. As his delegation had already said many times, no objective could legitimize the murder of civilians and other innocent persons. The attempts made to disguise terrorism by calling it a liberation struggle amounted to a cynical manipulation of the definition of terrorism. All responsible members of the international community must counter the attempts of the minority of States who engaged in such a course and must condemn terrorism in all forms. Nothing could justify terrorism, and it was to be hoped that the international community would not become involved in pernicious attempts to justify barbaric acts.

125. Mr. ABOU-HADID (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was by their acts and not by their words that States should be judged by the international community. In that respect, the daily repressive acts and practices of the Israeli Government in the occupied and other Arab territories could only be described as terrorist acts. A list could be made of such acts, from the Deir Yassin massacres to the attack on the Tomb of the Patriarchs, from the repression perpetrated daily against the Palestinian people, including children who resisted the occupier with the means at their disposal, to the sealing off of the occupied territories which prevented Palestinian workers from earning a living and the terrorism perpetrated against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon. That was the daily reality of Israeli practices, and only the term 'terrorism' was appropriate to describe them. The Syrian Arab Republic categorically condemned international terrorism in all its forms and stressed that there could be no justification for it.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.